

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 565

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Head Coach Eric Bryson and the Gra-Mar Middle School boys' basketball team.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful middle school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Head Coach Eric Bryson, the Gra-Mar Middle School boys' basketball team is one such estimable team, having achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2008-2009 season, which culminated in their second consecutive City Championship; and

WHEREAS, unified by their team motto, "One Team, One Goal, CITY!!", which reminds them what they are playing and striving to achieve, the Gra-Mar Middle School Gladiators posted a record of eighteen wins against only two losses for the 2008-2009 season, replicating the excellent record of the 2007-2008 team; and

WHEREAS, entering the 2008-2009 season with just one returning player, the Gladiators faced an uphill challenge to replicate the team's first championship season which concluded with a seventeen-game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, voted Mr. Basketball by the Charles Davis Foundation for 2008-2009, Gladiator player Jason Stone was the only returning player from the championship squad, and he rallied his team to win a second consecutive City Championship; and

WHEREAS, although they did not repeat as Eastern Division Tournament Champions in 2009, finishing in second place, the team showed that they truly possess the hearts of Gladiators by overcoming that setback to achieve victory and the City Championship yet again; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary members of the 2008-2009 team are: Ladarrious Wimberly, Dante Hall, Jarrod Stafford, Jeremy Curry, Jason Stone, Demarzhe Johnson, William Harris, Terry Holt, Michael Parham, Eric Darrett, Mykel Turner, Ricky Fletcher, Devonte Childress, Brandon Sawyer, KeAnthony Lavender, and Kenny Robertson; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Gra-Mar Middle School boys' basketball team epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success while showing the greatest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible their City Championship, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Gra-Mar Middle School boys basketball team for their success on the court and to thank them for serving as fine examples of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Eric Bryson and the Gra-Mar Middle School boys' basketball team on their outstanding season and capturing back-to-back City Championships in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.